ACTION

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS: Agenda Item F-1-c
DEGREE PROGRAMS AT KCTCS May 22, 2000

Recommendation:

- That the following Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) programs be provisionally approved for the corresponding eight technical colleges:

  - Business and Office Technology (CIP 52.0402) – Northern Kentucky Technical College
  - Culinary Arts (CIP 20.0402) – Bowling Green Technical College.
  - Industrial Maintenance Technology (CIP 47.0303) – Hazard Technical College
  - Machine Tool Technology (CIP 48.0503) – Madisonville Technical College
  - Machine Tool Technology (CIP 48.0503) – Owensboro Technical College
  - Machine Tool Technology (CIP 48.0503) – Rowan Technical College
  - Medical Laboratory Technology (CIP 51.1004) – Cumberland Valley Technical College
  - Welding Technology (CIP 48.0508) – Jefferson Technical College

Rationale:

- KRS 164.580(7) provides that "The Technical Institutions' Branch (of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System) through its faculty and accrediting procedures may develop technical degree programs that shall be considered for approval by the board of regents and the Council on Postsecondary Education."

- At its April 1999 meeting, the Council delegated program approval to the KCTCS Board of Regents except for new programs that would result in the offering of a new credential at a KCTCS technical or community college.

- The eight proposed programs are the first degree programs for each of these institutions. With approval of these proposals, all technical colleges within KCTCS will have authority to offer associate degree programs and be "degree-granting" for purposes of accreditation and student financial aid.

- All proposed programs address the KCTCS and institutional missions to provide education and training to develop a skilled and versatile workforce for employment in a changing economy. The institutions justify the need for the program through a combination of statistical employment information, employer and student surveys, and advisory committee recommendations.

- Several articulation agreements have been reached to provide transfer to four-year institutions, while others are in development.

- The faculty members in all programs meet the standards for degree programs required by the Council on Occupational Education. Most faculty members hold the appropriate educational credentials; some meet the requirements through extensive and specialized occupational experience.

- Library materials and technology are adequate. Additional library access will be provided through extensive use of community college and university libraries and access to the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library.

- Technical classroom and laboratory facilities are adequate. The technical courses in all eight of the proposed programs are currently offered at the certificate or diploma level. Space for general education courses is available at all institutions.

- The proposals identify the required financial resources to start and sustain each program. The Machine Tool program at Madisonville Technical College indicates a need for equipment expenditures in Year 2 through Year 4 and an additional faculty member by Year 2. KCTCS states that these funds are included in the budget and acknowledges that program approval does not imply CPE authorization to request additional resources.

- Each program is recommended for provisional approval contingent upon satisfactory results of a site visit to be conducted by the Council on Occupational Education within 90 days after the program begins. The on-site visit will validate whether the technical college has the institutional capacity to offer the degree-level program as described in the proposal.

Executive summaries for each proposal are attached.

Staff Preparation by Charles Wade

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
NORTHERN KENTUCKY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Business and Office Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission . Influence . Organization

This degree proposal is consistent with the mission and objectives of Northern Kentucky Technical College to provide preparatory education and initial training and retraimng of workers in order to develop a skilled and versatile workforce. This proposal is also congruent with the mission of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and the goals of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The degree will support the level of excellence envisioned by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of1997* (House Bill 1).

Since the passage of House Bill 1, collaborative efforts among postsecondary education providers in Northern Kentucky have flourished. This proposal supports the intent of House Bill 1 for institutional collaboration and resource sharing since both Northern Kentucky University and Thomas More College are collaborating to provide the transferable general education component.

Program Description

The Business and Office Technology program contains a general education component and a technical core, which provide a uniform base of knowledge and skill for all students obtaining the degree. In addition to the technical core, it provides multiple technical options or areas of expertise in order to accommodate individual career goals. Students may choose to specialize in the following areas: accounting; administrative assistant; and computer systems operator. At the same time the college will continue to offer previously approved certificates and diplomas for those not wishing to pursue a degree.

The program incorporates the necessary workforce skills found in the SCANS 2000 report and will produce graduates who can meet nationally recognized skill standards and are qualified for specialty credentials such as the Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) testing and certification program. Such nationally recognized credentials are recognized by employers across the country and throughout the world.

Supportive Data

A need assessment conducted by Northern Kentucky Technical College indicated that 61 local employers have a strong to very strong need for an AAT degree in Business and Office Technology.

The Greater Cincinnati Labor Market Study, *Characteristics of Employment Opportunities,* revealed that by 2001, the number ofjobs that require a college or advanced degree will increase by almost nineteen percent. The *Top 50 Northern Kentucky Occupations with the Most Annual Job Openings Projected Through 2005* include computer support specialists, general office clerks, secretaries, clerical supervisors, accounting and audit clerks. The Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet has identified computer support specialists, with *58.2* percent growth, as one of the twenty-five fastest growing Kentucky occupations requiring extensive postsecondary training through 2005.

Resources

The Business and Office Technology program combines the talent, expertise, and other resources from all three Northern Kentucky Technical College campuses in collaboration with Northern Kentucky University and Thomas More College to prepare employees for the high tech offices in Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati.

NKTC has space allocated for a Learning Resource Center that is tied electronically to the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library and other Internet resources. In addition, there are resource materials located in each of the laboratory areas that will be used as part of this program. The existing program classroom and lab facilities are capable of supporting the AAT degree program without renovations or structural changes.

Qualified faculty members are currently employed. No additional funding is requested for implementation of the degree program.

Conclusion

When approved by the Board of Regents of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Northern Kentucky Technical College will be able to provide a degree program needed by citizens. This program will enhance the educational and employment opportunities of students and meet workforce needs of employers. Students choosing the transferable general education option will experience a seamless system of postsecondary education. The approval of this degree will reinforce the value of collaboration in Northern Kentucky and will set the stage for future postsecondary educational endeavors.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
BOWLING GREEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Culinary Arts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence, Organization

Bowling Green Technical College requests authorization to offer an Associate in Applied Technology Degree (AAT) in Culinary Arts effective August 2000. The proposed program is consistent with the mission of Bowling Green Technical College and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to offer programs designed to prepare students for immediate technical and professional employment. The program will also provide students with high quality education and skills training which will ensure South Central Kentucky employers a skilled and versatile workforce.

Program Description

The program prepares graduates for supervision and management roles in the food and beverage, hospitality, and tourism industry. Classroom instruction is supplemented by practice in the culinary arts kitchen lab and by off-campus lab experiences in actual working environments. Graduates will be certified by the National Restaurant Association in Serve Safe Food Procedures, and can be eligible for certification by the American Culinary Federation as Certified Culinarian or Certified Pastry Culinarian, which is the first step to certification as "Chef."

Students will receive 45-47 semester hours of culinary skills training at the Bowling Green Technical College and 15-16 hours of general education courses from Bowling Green Community College for a total of 60-63 hours. General education credits earned through KCVU or KIET may also be applied toward the degree. The program will also serve as the regional provider of continuing education courses for this profession.

Supportive Data

Professional food service and lodging managers' jobs, under DOT code 15026, ranked second as the fastest growing among executive, administrative & managerial occupations in the ten-county labor market region of the Barren River Area. From 1994-2005, 41 percent more managers will be needed for a total projection of 231 positions or 33 job openings per year. Twenty-one of the 33 positions projected per year in the Barren River Area for this category will be specifically focused in food and beverage management. In the Commonwealth, 498 job openings per year or a growth rate of 35.64 percent is predicted. In 1994, some *9,305* food service and lodging managers were employed. By 2005 it is anticipated that the need in this category will approach 12,622. Eating and drinking establishments employ 62.9 percent of

this category, or 313 of the estimated yearly job openings. There will be a need for 7,939 food and beverage managers by the year 2005. These data indicates a continuous and immediate need for this program. Support also comes from local employers serving on the program advisory board, the college administration, faculty, and staff of both Bowling Green Technical College and Bowling Green Community College of Western Kentucky University.

Having earned an associate degree and certification by the American Culinary Federation Certification, graduates will be eligible for better, higher-paying positions at local, state, regional, and national levels. However, the primary objective of the program is to serve the students and employers in the South Central Kentucky region.

Resources

Facilities currently exist to support the program as all courses are being offered at the respective institutions. All Culinary Arts courses will be held at the Bowling Green Technical College. Students may take general education courses at any of the WKU campuses with selected courses available through telecourse options and the KCVU.

Culinary Arts reference materials are located at Bowling Green Technical College. Students enrolled in Western Kentucky University will have access to the University's libraries and resources available through the KCVU.

Faculty who meet the accreditation requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will teach the general education courses. Faculty at BGTC meet the Council on Occupational Education standards as well as American Culinary Federation standards. No additional personnel are required to deliver the technical components since the diploma programs that form the basis of the program are already being offered at the BGTC. Classes for general education are already being offered at BGCC and via the KCVU. The development of the new lab structure will require an internal re-allocation of funds.

Conclusion

Without additional resources, BGTC can expand employment opportunities for local citizens and better meet workforce needs through the addition of this degree option to the existing diploma programs. This represents yet another collaborative endeavor between BGTC and BGCC designed to make optimal use of existing resources to expand employment opportunities while promoting economic development.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
HAZARD TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Industrial Maintenance Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence, Organization

Hazard Technical College, at the request of local industrial companies, is seeking approval to offer an Associate in Applied Technology degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology effective fall 2000. The proposed program is consistent with the mission of Hazard Technical College and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to offer programs designed to prepare students for immediate technical and professional employment. The program will also provide students with high quality education and skills training which will ensure regional employers a skilled and versatile workforce. The offering of this degree will continue Hazard Technical College's tradition of meeting industries' need for a well-educated workforce with high-quality training.

Program Description

This degree will meet the need for high quality, well-educated maintenance personnel in this region of eastern Kentucky. The Associate in Applied Technology degree program requires completion of 60-69 credit hours. Students will complete general education *(15* hours) courses, technical core (27 hours) courses, and 18-27 credit hours of electives in identified specialty areas. General education courses will focus on building the general employability skills such as communication, problem solving and teamwork required in today's work environment. The curriculum will develop competencies in the core areas of math, blueprint reading, electricity, fluid power, and mechanical fundamentals. The elective courses will be taken from the areas of Air Conditioning Technology, Electrical Technology, Electronics Technology, Machine Tool Technology, Welding Technology, and/or Carpentry. These elective courses allow the advisor and students to customize training to meet local industry needs

Supportive Data

Local employers (Trus Joist McMillan, D J Plastics, Perry Manufacturing, Whayne Supply, and Service Pump) have identified sixty-two vacancies for program graduates over the next five years. Industrial donations valued at well over a hundred thousand dollars have been provided to support this program. Additionally, the Hazard area is experiencing a diversification of the economy, moving from primarily mining to industrial. Both the mining and manufacturing industry are now looking for employees who are highly skilled and highly qualified to maintain state-of-the-art equipment that is currently used in the region. Mining companies have replaced older equipment with processor controlled equipment. New factories have installed state-of-the-art equipment

for production processes. Students are highly motivated and extremely interested in becoming and remaining competent in order to meet industry's technological demands.

Resources

All of the courses required for completion of the Associate in Applied Technology degree are currently available through the collaborative arrangement between Hazard Technical College and Hazard Community College. Existing funds will cover the cost of salaries, supplies, and overhead. Libraries at both the Technical College and the Community College, as well as services available through KCVL, will meet the needs of this program. No new funding will be required for initiating this degree program.

Conclusion

With no additional funding requirements, Hazard Technical College will be able to provide advanced opportunities in industrial maintenance education for area residents while meeting emerging workforce needs. The Associate in Applied Technology degree in Industrial Maintenance Technology is essential to achieve the KCTCS mission and Hazard Technical College's goal of being responsive to industry needs.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
MADISONVILLE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Machine Tool Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence, Organization

The proposed Associate in Applied Technology in Machine Tool Technology program is consistent with the mission of Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Madisonville Technical College. This program will prepare students for immediate technical and professional employment through technical and related training and will develop a skilled workforce that is competitive in meeting the changing demands of business and industry. It will also enhance and expand students' options that lead to success in the workforce and provide continued opportunities for a seamless, lifelong education.

The AAT degree is a collaborative effort between Madisonville Technical College and Madisonville Community College. The general education courses required for the associate degree will be completed at Madisonville Community College. Madisonville Technical College will offer the technical courses necessary to complete the program. This will comply with Governor Patton's desire to create a seamless educational system in Kentucky. The consolidation of some functions, services, and programs between Madisonville Technical College and Madisonville Community College will allow for many more educational opportunities for students.

Program Description

The *75* credit hour Associate in Applied Technology degree requires a minimum of 57 credit hours of technical courses, 15 semester credit hours of general education courses and a three credit hour computer literacy course. Machinists make parts to exact measurements by shaping them from metal or plastic castings, stampings, or from solid stock. The complex technology requires working knowledge of the use and operation of various metalworking machines and machines that cut, drill, grind, or otherwise form a piece of metal accurately into precise dimensions. Nearly all products used in farming, mining, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and communication depend upon the precision toolmaker.

Madisonville Technical College has offered the Machine Tool Technology diploma program since 1962. While the program has undergone many changes since that time, the College continues to prepare students to become highly skilled machinists in order to meet the increasing demand from industry. The degree program in Machine Tool Technology will offer the student an opportunity to reach a personal career goal including

the development of a high level of technical proficiency along with general employability skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem solving that are increasingly important in today's workplace.

The Machine Tool Technology student must learn to read blueprints, determine the sequence of operations, make set-ups, and choose the correct machines for the job. Earning potential in the metal working occupations correlates with the amount of education attained.

Supportive Data

A regional needs assessment and the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* demonstrated that employers in this region are having difficulty finding machinists with the highly technical skills and knowledge to meet the changing needs of the workplace. This program is designed to allow multiple exit points with certificate level competencies, diploma level competencies, or associate degree level competencies. The machining program at Madisonville Technical College is an incremental program that will allow a student to begin his/her career at entry-level and move up the career ladder. In addition, an associate degree will increase the annual salary the graduate earns.

Resources

The general education courses necessary to complete the AAT degree may be completed at Madisonville Community College, or through the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University, or Kentucky Educational Television. All technical courses will be completed at Madisonville Technical College.

A full-time librarian oversees the media center, which houses adequate resource and reference materials. In addition, the media center has full access to the Kentucky Virtual Library and its many resources.

Conclusion

Without requiring additional funding, the Associate in Applied Technology degree will allow area residents the opportunity to pursue additional postsecondary education in machine tool technology while providing local employers an educated, highly skilled workforce. The degree will also enable KCTCS and Madisonville Technical College to demonstrate responsiveness to the demand from local employers for well-trained workers in this field.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
OWENSBORO TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Machine Tool Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence. Organization

The Machine Tool Technology AAT Degree program will support the streamlining of educational opportunity envisioned by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (House Bill 1). It also supports the mission of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Owensboro Technical College's mission by providing education and training to develop a skilled and versatile workforce for Owensboro and the surrounding communities

The Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree in Machine Tool Technology will enhance and expand student options that lead to success in the workforce. It will provide continued opportunities for seamless, lifelong education and give graduates the advantage of being competitive with other degree-holding individuals in the current job market.

Program Description

The AAT degree program is a 75 credit hour program that requires a minimum of 57 credit hours of technical courses, 15 semester credit hours of general education courses and a three credit hour computer literacy course. OTC and 0CC are collaborating to provide the general education component of this program through consolidation of programs, services and functions.

The current program provides training for adults seeking to learn a new career, training for adults wanting to upgrade their machinist skills and dual credit training for high school students. Two diplomas and three certificates are presently offered in the program.

Supportive Data

Owensboro and the surrounding areas have shown a dramatic growth in the manufacturing field which has created an escalating demand for qualified machinists, quality control personnel, CNC programmers, and tool room supervisors.

The community need for the AAT degree program has been demonstrated through need assessment, surveys, letters of support, and verbal reports during program advisory committee meetings. The manufacturing industry in the Owensboro area has an increased demand for quality machinists as a result of the impressive industrial growth in the community. Thirteen

new major manufacturing firms have located in Daviess, Hancock, Ohio, and McLean counties over the past three years. This count does not include the many machine shops located in Henderson County, the "Mold Capital of Kentucky," which is only thirty miles away. These Henderson manufacturing firms also hire program graduates from Owensboro's program. In addition to the new companies in the area, 16 existing manufacturing firms in and around Owensboro have expanded greatly.

Machine Tool Technology has been revitalized in the past five years to meet the extraordinary demands for skilled personnel in the area. Since the methods of machining have changed dramatically, students now receive training on both conventional equipment and technologically advanced computer numerically-controlled equipment. The hiring of machine tool students is at an all-time high with Machine Tool Technology students from Owensboro Technical College being placed in positions such as machinists, CNC operators, CNC programmers, and set-up personnel. Earning an AAT degree will enable graduates to advance more quickly into lead positions such as department programmers, job route specialists, and quality control technicians.

Resources

All Machine Tool Technology courses will be held at Owensboro Technical College where facilities are already available to support the program. Students may take general education courses at Owensboro Community College, through KCVU, or through KET.

No new equipment funding is required for the AAT program. The salaries of two instructors are fully funded, and the salary of a third instructor is funded by a grant.

Current library resources are available in the Owensboro Technical College media center. Owensboro Technical College and Owensboro Community College have also entered into a Library Services Collaboration Agreement that extends borrowing privileges to all students of either institution. Library services are also available via the KCVL.

Conclusion

With no additional funding, an AAT degree in Machine Tool Technology will allow former graduates, current students, and future students to pursue expanded educational opportunities in the machine tool area. The degree program will provide employers a more qualified pool of applicants, resulting in economic benefits for new employees and employers. The AAT degree will also respond to numerous requests from regional industries and to student demand for more educational opportunities.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
ROWAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Machine Tool Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence, Organization

The Machine Tool Technology AAT Degree program will support the streamlining of educational opportunity envisioned by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (House Bill 1). It also supports the mission of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Owensboro Technical College's mission by providing education and training to develop a skilled and versatile workforce for Owensboro and the surrounding communities. The mission of Rowan Technical College is to provide education and training to develop a skilled and versatile workforce for Morehead and the surrounding community. The Machine Tool Technology program supports the college mission by providing state-of-the-art training that enables current industry personnel to upgrade skills and provides students the opportunity to pursue a career in the Machine Tool field.

The Associate in Applied Technology degree in Machine Tool Technology will enhance and expand student options that lead to success in the workforce. It will provide continued opportunities for seamless, lifelong education as the students with degrees make choices about when and where to continue their educational experiences. The degree will afford these students the advantage of being able to compete with other degree-holding individuals in the current job market.

Program Description

The 75 credit hour Associate in Applied Technology degree requires a minimum of 57 credit hours of technical courses, 15 semester credit hours of general education courses and a three credit hour computer literacy course. Workplace readiness skills such as communication and problem solving will be enhanced through the broadened general education component. Rowan Technical College students may take their general education courses via distance learning or from Maysville Community College or other postsecondary institutions. Workplace readiness skills such as communication and problem solving will be enhanced through the broadened general education component.

Since the establishment of Rowan Technical College, the Machine Tool technology program has provided quality training for career-seeking adults and continuing education classes for those wanting to upgrade skills. Two diplomas and three certificates are currently given upon completion of assigned tasks for the program. The methods of machining have changed dramatically, and students now receive training on both

conventional equipment and technologically advanced computer numerically-controlled equipment

Supportive Data

The hiring of Machine Tool students is at an all-time high with 100% of the Machine Tool Technology students from Rowan Technical College being placed in positions such as machinists, CNC operators, CNC programmers, and set-up personnel. Earning an Associate in Applied Technology degree would enable students to advance into supervisor positions like department programmers, job route specialists, and quality control technicians much more quickly. The Associate in Applied Technology degree will respond to student demand for more educational opportunities and to numerous requests from regional industries. The manufacturing industry in the Morehead area has expressed an increased demand for quality machinists and related employees because of the impressive industrial growth in the community. New major manufacturing firms have located in Rowan, Montgomery, Mason, Fleming, and Bath counties over the past ten years. In addition to the new companies in the area, existing manufacturing firms within a 50-mile radius have expanded greatly. Morehead and the surrounding area have shown a dramatic growth in the manufacturing field with the creation of a regional industrial park, located approximately three miles from Rowan Technical College. The industrial park will create an escalating demand for qualified machinists, quality control personnel, CNC programmers, and tool room supervisors. The community has further demonstrated support for the Associate in Applied Technology degree program through need assessment surveys, letters of support, and verbal testimony at craft advisory meetings.

Resources

The degree program will build on the current certificate and diploma programs at Rowan Technical College. All of the Machine Tool Technology courses will be held at Rowan Technical College where facilities and faculty are already available to support the program. Students may take general education courses at Maysville Community College through KCVU, or through KET or may transfer credit from other colleges and universities. Since this degree program will build on the existing programs no new funding is required for the AAT program. Current library resources are available at Rowan Technical College. Library services are also available through Kentucky's Commonwealth Virtual Library.

Conclusion

An Associate in Applied Technology degree in Machine Tool Technology will allow former graduates, current students, and future students to pursue additional educational opportunities in the Machine Tool area. The degree program will provide employers a qualified pool of applicants, resulting in economic benefits for new employees and employers. Program implementation can be accomplished without any new funding.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
CUMBERLAND VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Medical Laboratory Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence, Organization

The proposed Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree in Medical Laboratory Technology is consistent with Cumberland Valley Technical College's mission to provide education and training to develop a skilled and versatile workforce for employment, lifelong learning and independence in a changing global economy. The establishment of this program will also meet the College's goals of responding to the needs of business and industry, and developing partnerships that lead toward a comprehensive workforce preparation system.

Changes in industry regulations have established an associate degree as the minimum educational level for job entry in this field. To continue to serve industry needs and respond to a changing workforce, we must provide this educational avenue for our students.

This program is also consistent with the mission of KCTCS to promote collaboration between institutions and to promote a seamless educational experience. Cumberland Valley Technical College and Southeast Community College (SECC) will continue to work together to provide this degree offering.

Program Description

This program prepares students for a career in medical laboratory technology. The graduate will be able to perform routine analytical procedures in the various departments of the laboratory to include hematology, urinalysis, biochemistry, serology, microbiology, and immunohematology.

Cumberland Valley Technical College will provide all technical course work. General education requirements will be provided primarily by Southeast Community College, but will also be obtainable through transfer from accredited institutions, distance learning, and the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University. Clinical fieldwork will be coordinated by Cumberland Valley Technical College with the support and cooperation of participating area clinical facilities.

Supportive Data

Cumberland Valley Technical College has operated a Medical Laboratory Technology diploma program since 1993. Graduates of this program have successfully obtained employment as Medical Laboratory Technicians in area hospitals, laboratories, and clinics. The program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Regulatory changes made by the accrediting and licensing bodies for this profession necessitate making an associate degree available to students. The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA '88) requires medical laboratory professionals who perform high complexity testing to possess a minimum of an associate degree with national certification. Two national certifying agencies have instituted this mini mum requirement. The American Society of Clinical Pathologists requires an associate degree or equivalent. The National Certifying Agency requires an associate degree with no equivalency pathway. Other national accrediting agencies indicate they will follow suit. Without an associate degree, graduates of the Medical Laboratory Technology Diploma program would not be eligible for certification and therefore would not be eligible for employment with a majority of health care facilities.

Southeast Community College has partnered with CVTC since 1994 to offer joint programs in the health care field. Southeast Community College offered an Associate in Applied Science degree in Clinical Laboratory Technology beginning in 1972, which was deactivated in 1986. SECC applied for reactivation of this program in 1999 in order to provide the graduates of Cumberland Valley Technical College with an avenue to earn an associate degree. An assessment of the program resulted in ongoing collaboration meetings between CVTC and SECC, and a determination that degree program approval should reside with CVTC since it offers all the technical courses needed for the degree. It was further agreed that SECC would continue to provide the general education component.

Resources

Resources at Cumberland Valley Technical College are adequate to meet the needs of this program. No additional resources are required. A fully equipped laboratory is available. Qualified and credentialed faculty are on staff. Southeast Community College will continue to provide general education requirements.

Conclusion

Changing requirements for professional certification in the field of medical laboratory technology make it essential that an associate degree be available in the area. The technical expertise available through CVTC makes it the logical college to award the degree. Program implementation will require no additional funding.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
JEFFERSON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Proposal for Initiation of New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Welding Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mission, Influence, and Organization

The Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree in Welding at Jefferson Technical College will help fulfill the mission of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and achieve the goals of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The degree will contribute to the streamlining of educational opportunities envisioned by the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of1997* (House Bill 1). The Associate in Applied Technology (AAT) degree in Welding also supports Jefferson Technical College's (JTC) mission to "provide education and training to develop a productive and versatile workforce. This degree program is designed to provide a two-year technical degree for meeting clearly defined needs of the manufacturing, fabrication, and metal repair industries in the Greater Louisville Metropolitan Area. Welders trained in advanced methods and techniques are necessary to manufacture the next generation of products in a highly competitive and global marketplace. In addition, the AAT in Welding helps the college achieve its goal of being the primary provider of short and long-term training for the welding and metal fabrication industry in the Louisville metropolitan area.

Program Description

Industry and business entities from the Louisville area have expressed their need for a skilled workforce that has the potential to continue to learn and keep abreast of the changes in technology and material. This degree will be responsive to the technical needs of the welding industry and, at the same time, developing general workplace readiness skills such as communication and problem solving though general education offerings. The opportunity for technical electives permits students to customize their training to meet their needs and the needs of their employers. Elective courses also lend themselves to the customization of industrial training and upgrade offerings that may vary by geographical area and the manufacturing needs of the region. This program will allow students to develop specific skills required as a condition of employment, increase their skills for pay incentives, and allow for advancement into supervisory positions.

The sixty-four (64) credit hour curriculum for the AAT in Welding requires completion of forty-nine (49) hours of technical course work and fifteen hours (15) of general education course work. Students will complete the technical course work at JTC and the general education requirements at Jefferson Community College (JCC), or they may choose to take distance learning courses via KET or KCVU. Students who have

completed general education classes at another college or university may have their transcript evaluated and courses may, if they meet the requirements, transfer to the AAT program. The general education component may transfer to the University of Louisville or any other Kentucky college or university on a course by course basis. An innovative feature of the program is the delivery of technical welding courses via distance learning. Plans include offering three courses via distance learning technology.

This program offering will be a collaborative effort between JTC and JCC. Technical college faculty will teach the required and elective technical courses while the community college faculty will teach the general education courses on either the JTC campus or the downtown campus of JCC.

Supportive Data

This advanced degree has been requested by the Advanced Welding Technology Center, a consortium of welding manufacturers and supplier in the Louisville area in conjunction with the Louisville Office of Economic Development and Greater Louisville, Inc. Having an associate degree will allow graduates to qualify for national certification one year sooner than diploma graduates.

The projected total number ofjobs statewide by 2005 is 6,780 with around 270 openings per year according to the Kentucky Career Outlook and Job Opportunities, Dec. 1997. Although an AAT program in Welding was recently approved for Elizabethtown Technical College, one program cannot be expected to meet the demands of its own area and the Louisville/Jefferson County area, as well.

Resources

Resources are already in place for implementing the degree program. Recently renovated physical facilities will meet the facilities needs, current technical and community college faculty are qualified to offer their respective portions of the program, and financial resources derived from state appropriations and tuition are adequate for ongoing program support. The many Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) between the two collaborating institutions document strong ongoing efforts to make optimal use of existing resources of JTC and JCC.

Conclusion

Approval of this program will provide another value-added educational option for students while meeting needs of the businesses and industries involved in the manufacturing and fabrication or metal products in Louisville and the surrounding area. This program not only expands efforts to provide an effective and efficient workforce, but also encourages lifelong learning. This proposal exemplifies the cooperation between Jefferson Technical College and Jefferson Community College to work together and share vital resources to meet the needs of the community.